

MEMO FROM:

NORMAN STEINLAUF

Doug:

The attached is a statement by Dean Heckel, issued Dec. 8, in regard to the City Council's Report on UCC.



*Jewish Community Council  
of Essex County*

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**UCC***United Community Corporation*

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CYRIL D. TYSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORC. WILLARD HECKEL  
PRESIDENT

December 8, 1965

I welcome the long-awaited report of the City Council committee that has been intent upon attacking Newark's community action corporation in its war on poverty. It clearly points up what the real issue is all about. It is not high salaries and it is not the employment of non-Newarkers. The real issue is political control over the anti-poverty program. Certain members of the City Council feel threatened by the new leadership that is coming forward as the poor assume responsibilities. Such a clash was inevitable.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 invites communities to set up corporations independent of city hall control but corporations which are controlled by boards representative of the entire community. This we did in Newark. The Mayor, two members of the City Council, the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools were made members of the board of the United Community Corporation. Unfortunately, except for the Mayor, who has always been represented at Board meetings, the attendance of the other city officials has been very poor. The point of view of the City Council was never presented at board meetings although the opportunity was there.

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In the summer of 1964 when the City Council was asked to contribute \$15,000 to launch the corporation along with the Board of Education and the Welfare Federation, the position was taken by some members of the Council that the Council should have control over key appointments. The corporation rejected this and the City Council agreed to appropriate the funds without this condition.

When the investigation of the United Community Corporation was begun by the committee of the Council, we pledged our cooperation because certainly the Council was justified in conducting such a study. However, from the very beginning, the members of the committee indicated hostility to the corporation and ~~was~~ instead of <sup>making</sup> a sincere effort to get facts, the committee indulged in an all-out effort to make a case against the corporation. We never really had an opportunity to have an unbiased evaluation.

Now a real decision must be made in Newark. The mayor must decide what kind of anti-poverty organization he favors. The City Council must decide what kind of anti-poverty organization it favors. Above all, the community as a whole must make a decision. Last but not least the ultimate word must come from Mr. Shriver and the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington.